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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Eleventh session
New York, 20-31 January 1992
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Addendum

Spain

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Spain (CEDAW/C/13/Add.19 and Amend.1) at its 201st meeting, on 28 January 1992. The list relating to the report contains the following questions.

"General observations on second periodic report

"The Committee thought that the first report had been a very good report, and noted the strong commitment of Spain to reform, modernization and the equality of women.

"The second periodic report consists mainly of the 1988-1990 Plan for Equal Opportunities. It does not always show what changes have occurred. Some of the figures are out of date, and do not permit up-to-date comparisons. It seems to have been written in 1988, though dated 1990. The material is organized in accordance with the following headings: legal system family and social protection, education and culture; employment and labour relations; and internal cooperation and associationism (political organization).

"The amendment repeats much of the material in the second periodic report, but does not state that it is a replacement.

"Despite these observations, the report and supplement have a great deal of valuable information, and show the continuing commitment of Spain to equality principles.

"Some areas of change

"1. The Institute for Women's Affairs (IWA) is the agency responsible for implementing equal opportunity for women. The Plan for Equal Opportunity shows a strong commitment to equality, in line with past achievements. Is there an evaluation of the Plan? Could information about evaluation be provided?

"2. The Convention is domestic law and can be invoked in the Courts; it overrides inconsistent laws. Laws contravening the Convention are invalid and of no effect. Can women go to the Constitutional Court, and to the Court at Luxembourg?

"3. Are there decided cases?

"4. Affirmative action had been established as lawful when it was due to an objection and reasonable cause which justified it. Could the Committee have the text of this provision, and information about laws providing for positive action?

"5. Law 11/1990 is aimed at discrimination on the ground of sex. It deals with residence, common law, inheritance, criminal law, maternal preference, etc. Have all legal discriminations been removed, including those relating to nationality?

"[Other changes are mentioned under specific subject headings.]

"Other issues to raise on the second periodic report

"Reservation. Spain still has a reservation under which ratification does not affect the constitutional provisions concerning succession to the Crown. Preference to men in regard to titles of nobility has been abolished. When the initial report was presented, the possibility of change in regard to succession to the Crown was mentioned. Have there been further developments?

"Machinery (articles 1-4)

"1. To what extent were women's organizations consulted in preparing the report?

"2. Was consideration given to the recommendations of CEDAW in preparing the report?

"Traditional roles and stereotyping (article 5)

"1. The initial report stated that there was to be a campaign to break down stereotype images of women in domestic and professional life and in advertising. What have been the effects of this campaign?

"2. A law has been enacted to ban discriminatory advertising. The law makes publicity illegal when it assails the dignity of persons, especially infants, the young and women.

"3. Could the Committee be given more information, and the full text of the provision? It could be a valuable model. What has been its effect?

"4. IWA had put forward criteria to be used in all official advertising. Are these criteria in use?

"5. The initial report comments that domestic work was still done by women with little help, and men were not interested in equality issues. The Institute would be undertaking a campaign to encourage men to share domestic responsibility, to encourage parents to ensure all kinds of professions were open to girls, and to encourage young people to choose professions with an eye to the future. What have been the effects of this campaign?

"Violence (articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16)

"1. Sexual assault. The report comments that in rape, the woman only has to show that she showed resistance, not heroic attitudes. Could more information be given about this and the text of the law? Does it apply when threats and weapons are used?

"2. Sexual harassment. Sexual harassment at work has been made a serious offence. Could the Committee be given information about the application of this law and decided cases?

"3. It was said that action would be taken under the plan to set up special services for victims of sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence. What action has been taken? Has the programme for care of women in police stations been implemented?

"4. Criminal law has been amended so that maltreatment of spouse, child or similar is now an offence. Rape and indecent abuse are covered. Sterilization of disabled persons is permitted in defined circumstances. Could more details be given on this?

"Prostitution (article 6)

"1. In the initial report, the Government commented that it was aware of illegal traffic in women, often minors, at the Portuguese border and that steps were being taken. Has there been any further action?

"2. What has happened in regard to the pilot programme for prostitution? Have social benefits been made available?

"Public life and leadership (articles 7 and 8)

"1. The second periodic report comments that there was no significant change in political participation: 6.5 and 5.5 per cent in the Senate. But the Amendment notes that from 1989 the percentage of women in Parliament is 14.6 per cent, owing to the increase in the Socialist Workers Party and the United Left. Ten per cent of Senators are women. The Socialist Party approved a quota of 25 per cent of women in posts of responsibility. Have other parties followed this example? What goals and quotas have been set? How does the quota system operate? Is the quota system for candidates or for elected representatives? How does it affect the voting patterns?

"2. The report mentions a programme for women in higher public office. The amended report notes that there were 12.2 per cent women directors general in 1991. Have these programmes been effective?

"3. Under Decree Law 1/1988, women may enter all forms of military employment under the same conditions of equality as men. Have women reached the highest levels of the service? Are there any distinctions that exclude them?

"4. The initial report records the percentages of women in the diplomatic corps. Have the figures improved?

"Education and training (article 10)

"1. The initial report noted that only a minority of women had chosen technical studies. Plans mentioned to the Committee included: mixed schools to be obligatory; reform of teaching material; and programmes to increase the participation of girls in technology. In the second periodic report, the figures for education are only up to 1985. In the amendment the latest information is that women are equal in enrolments at secondary schools, and higher in tertiary institutions. But while there are more females than males in universities, there are fewer in vocational training; and still fewer in technical high schools. Women choose science less often than boys. What vocational guidance is available to people completing secondary education?

"2. What measures are there to encourage more women to take vocational training, or to study technology at university?

"3. Have they been effective in combating gender-based job segregation?

"4. Are there positive measures such as special scholarships to encourage women to take up careers in non-traditional areas?

"5. What is done to monitor the plan for non-sexist use of language, and teaching material?

"Employment and economic activity (article 11)

"1. Participation. 31.9 per cent of women were active in 1987 (compared with 27.84 per cent in 1985), representing 33.5 per cent of total active population. In 1991, women were 35.3 per cent of the total active population.

"1.1 What are the obstacles to higher participation in the work force by women?

"1.2 Are there de facto obstructions to training etc.?

"2. Unemployment. The unemployment rate of women was 27.7 per cent and for men it was 16.5 per cent. In 1991, women had an unemployment rate of 23.2 per cent as against 11.9 per cent for men.

"2.1 What are the education and skills of unemployed women?

"2.2 Is lack of training the reason for high unemployment?

"3. Parental leave. Law 3/1989 extends maternity leave to 16 weeks; it can be shared. A parent can take three years to look after a child and retain his/her place and have the period count for seniority. It has been made an offence to discriminate in respect of wages, hours, etc., on the ground of sex; breach of rules regarding pregnancy and nursing are also offences. Decree 521/1990 reverses the burden of proof in discrimination cases, so that the defendant has to show objective and reasonable justification for the actions taken.

"3.1 Could more information be provided about how these laws operate?

"3.2 Have there been proceedings or prosecutions? Are they leading to changes in practice?

"3.3 Has the evaluation of the labour market and women programmes taken place?

"3.4 Are part time jobs mainly held by women, and are they regulated by national labour agreements?

"3.5 Have part time workers the same terms and conditions as full time workers?

"3.6 Are there special programmes to encourage the employment of disabled women?

"Health, fertility control (article 12)

"1. The amendment gives data for infant mortality, contraception knowledge and use, but no fertility rate. Can the Committee have the figures for fertility and birth rate?

"2. Despite the fact of contraception a high proportion do not use efficient methods. It seems more education on contraception is needed. Are there programmes for this?

"3. What are the results of the study of adolescent pregnancies?

"4. The law allows women access to techniques for assisted reproduction. Could more information be provided about this? What are the guidelines? Is surrogacy permitted?

"5. There were 50,000 cases of AIDS in 1990. How many women are affected? What programmes are there on AIDS?

"6. Breast cancer is the highest cause of female mortality. Are there programmes for screening to stop this trend and prevent the illness?

"7. Has drug addiction presented itself as a serious problem and have measures been taken to deal with the problem?

"Social security (article 13)

"1. Action has been taken since the initial report to remedy deficiencies in the provision of social services. A guarantee fund has been established for food and accommodation and for social security for people employed in the home; unequal treatment in pension scales for disabled and injured women has been removed. The tariff for compensation for disability is the same for women as for men now since May 1988. The old age pension for those unemployed at home is equal to the general pension. Do the new social security measures and guarantee fund refer to the unwaged sector of the economy? Do women working in the family enterprises, or at home, now get social security?

"2. Who pays contributions, and at what age are benefits paid?

"3. What social security is available for homemakers on retirement or disability? Do they qualify independently, or as dependants?

"Rural women (article 14)

"In the initial report it was noted that while Spain was mainly industrial, the services for rural women were not so good, e.g., for family planning, child care for seasonal workers, access to technology, young rural women are disadvantaged.

"What special programmes are being planned to improve the position of rural women?

"Family law, family relations (article 16)

"New laws provided for the appointment of specialist family judges. Has this been implemented?"

Replies of the representative of the Government of Spain

2. The representative of Spain addressed the Committee and emphasized the importance given by the Spanish Government to United Nations conventions on human rights, and to the obligations and objectives associated with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government wished that the United Nations would increase its activities related to the role of women. The objectives set forth by the Convention were fully consistent with the Spanish Constitution, which had proclaimed the principle of equality of men and women before the law, and called for measures to make equality fully effective. Continuous government effort was needed and achieved to accomplish those objectives.

3. The representative of Spain said that a main change since the first periodic report had been Spain's acceptance of European norms on equality and of European programmes of affirmative actions for 1980-1985 and 1985-1990, as a consequence of entry into the European Community. Another key event had been the first plan of action for equality of opportunities of women, adopted by the Council of Ministers in September 1987. The Steering Council of IWA had drafted the plan and had been entrusted with the initiation and follow-up of the measures contained in it. The plan was comprehensive and horizontal. It had established objectives, measures to meet those objectives and institutions responsible for those measures. The objectives were to be achieved between 1987 and 1990. She recalled that one of the main objectives of the plan was to complete the normative development of the constitutional principle of equality. The plan was also to give a legitimacy to positive actions in favour of women, and to enhance the acceptation and implementation of such measures. It was also aimed at developing the social infrastructure for the most disadvantaged women.

4. The representative gave the example of education to illustrate the achievements of the plan. Differences between men and women in education were now of a qualitative rather than a quantitative nature. Female students indeed had a tendency to opt for certain fields of studies that often had fewer job opportunities, although their representation in the technical field was increasing. Since 1987, female attendance in universities had been slightly higher than that of men. Regular vocational training remained an area where female participation was less than that of males.

5. The representative then provided the Committee with information and statistics on the plan's achievements in the field of employment and stressed that there had been a continuous increase in female activity rates between

1984 and 1991 as the actual rate is 33.3 per cent. That had been done, however, mainly through increased female participation in the service sector. The female labour force remained concentrated in professions related to education, health, textile and the home. Female representation in public administration had increased in recent years both in the central administration as a whole and for higher or senior-level posts. The lack of an entrepreneurial culture aware of women's capabilities was the leading cause in women's low representation in higher-level employment in general, and the representative said that public administration had to take a lead in promoting new recruiting habits. Turning to the issue of women in politics, the representative noted that more women had been elected in both general and local elections. The quota system initiated by the Socialist Party helped because it was followed by other political parties that might not have established concrete quotas but might increase the participation of women in various positions. She concluded that there had been important achievements in Spain, but that a lot remained to be done. Achieving de facto equality implied more progress in the field of education, public participation and for the sharing of domestic tasks. The representative then replied to questions contained in the list that had been transmitted to the Government.

6. The representative referred to general observations made by members of the Committee, and mentioned that the structure of the report was in conformity with the plan of action for equality of opportunities of women. The statistics provided were the most recent available, and were dated from the first quarter of 1991.

7. Answering questions asked by the Committee on areas of change, the representative reported that the plan of action for equality of opportunities of women had been evaluated in December 1990. Women's associations and experts had been participating in this process together with the ministerial departments involved in the implementation of the plan. Out of the 120 measures contained in the plan, 116 measures had been fulfilled in December 1990. All legislative changes had been implemented with the exception of those dealing with men's pre-eminence in determining the order of names for children. Important improvements had been made through the programme of positive actions, but efforts had to be sustained in the medium term.

8. On the effect of the Convention in domestic law, the representative read article 10 of the Spanish Constitution, which states that Spanish norms on human rights shall be in conformity with the provisions of all international human rights treaties signed by Spain. Hence, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women could be invoked before ordinary courts as well as before the constitutional court. Individuals could resort directly to the constitutional court with regards to violations of fundamental rights and liberties, including the principle of equality affirmed by article 14 of the Constitution. There was a wide jurisprudence on the interpretation of article 14 in conformity with international treaties. By a judgement of 1987, the constitutional court had established that positive action was not a form of discrimination as forbidden by article 14. The court had recalled that public authorities in Spain had

the responsibility for promoting the conditions to ensure that all individuals enjoyed freedom and equality, in conformity with article 9.2 of the Constitution. This legitimated the implementation of positive actions. Turning to the issue of reservations, the representative said that Spanish reservation to the Convention did not affect the goal and purpose of the Convention, and that a constitutional reform would be necessary to withdraw it.

9. On questions asked under articles 1 to 4, the representative informed the Committee that Spanish women's associations were part of the steering Committee of IWA and had participated in the evaluation of the first plan, based on which the second periodic report and the amendment had been prepared. She confirmed that Spain had taken into account the general recommendations of CEDAW in preparing its report.

10. On article 5 and questions on traditional roles and stereotyping, the representative reported campaigns carried out by IAW to promote a better sharing of domestic responsibilities, and a diversification of professional opportunities for young women. Men's attitudes towards women remained very traditional, and the impact of actions against stereotyping would be visible in the medium term only. The representative also referred to the general law of 1988 on advertising. The law had declared unlawful advertising that offended the dignity of a person, and gave judges the right to suspend such advertising until further analysis was made. No such cases had occurred yet. She said that IWA had made a manual on non-sexist utilization of language in administrative documents, but had not dealt with criteria of non-sexist advertising. She referred also to a campaign aiming to encourage men to behave according to the equality principles and she stated that although men ideologically favour these principles their behaviour is contradictory.

11. On violence (articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16), the representative read the definition of rape contained in the penal code. Since a law of 1989, the code established rape to be "carnal access to another person by vaginal, anal or oral means", by use of force or intimidation, if the victim was unconscious or under the age of 10. It was punishable by a prison term of from 12 to 20 years. There had been a change and the Supreme Court now only required evidence of non-consent by the victim. Some lower courts, however, still required evidence of resistance. As regards sexual harassment, she said that that action was not defined as a crime by the penal code, but as a serious violation of the labour order, punished by a fine. The labour inspection was in charge of implementing this sanction. The representative gave examples of programmes for women victims of sexual assaults. Those included training of State security forces, and the creation of special services. On violence in the family, the representative said that rape and other sexual offences were independent crimes in which the active part could be a family member or an unrelated person. Crimes perpetuated by unrelated persons were treated more severely. She informed the Committee that, according to an organic law of 1989, sterilization of persons suffering from grave mental deficiencies was legal if approved by a judge and by the legal counsel of the incompetent person.

12. On prostitution and article 6, the representative said that prostitution of others was punishable under the penal code. Prosecuting prostitution associated with illegal immigration at the Portuguese border had proved difficult. But the Spanish police had programmes to punish the exploitation of prostitution of both Spanish women and illegal immigrants. Programmes developed by the central, regional or local governments for prostitutes included health-care services, child-care, training for vocational opportunities, fellowships and scholarships.

13. Referring to public life and leadership under articles 7 and 8, the representative said that the Communist Party had introduced a quota of 35 per cent for the participation of women in its governing body and on its electoral lists. Other parties had actually started to include larger numbers of women on their lists. The quota system in the context of closed electoral lists had led to an increase in the number of women in local assemblies and in the national parliament. Participation of women at all levels of public administration had also risen between 1987 and 1991. The programme of affirmative action had played a key role, together with the increased participation of women in civil service training institutes. Turning to the question on women in the military profession, the representative said that there was no distinct exclusion of women from the higher levels of the service, but that there had been no time for women who had joined the army to develop fully their career. On women in the diplomatic corps, she said that their share had increased by more than 100 per cent, and that half of the 1992 candidates were women.

14. Turning to education and training under article 10, the representative reported various programmes to train professors and school guidance counselors on non-discriminatory vocational guidance. She also reported programmes to enhance female participation in new technologies, including a European Community project and counselling campaigns for educators and teachers of new technology. Such programmes contributed to promote women's participation in sectors of employment traditionally considered as masculine. Other measures in the area included campaigns for the diversification of professional options, through the diffusion of posters, for example, or through seminars on non-sexist orientation. The representative addressed the issue of the monitoring of the plan for non-sexist use of language and reported a whole range of activities. For example, material and videos of IWA on sex equality were being broadly circulated, a price had been established in 1988 to promote the production of non-discriminatory didactic material and the Ministry of Education had established a national competition for the preparation of curriculum material giving special attention to the equality of opportunity between men and women.

15. On article 11, and employment and economic activity, the representative differentiated between three main obstacles to women's participation in the economy: entrepreneurial culture hostile to women's access, underevaluation of their capacity by the women themselves, and unshared family responsibilities. She said that there were no de facto obstacles to access to professional training. The female unemployment rate had decreased but

remained twice as high as that of men. Lack of training was not the only explanation to female higher unemployment, though poorly educated women, especially those who had left the labour market for several years for family reasons, indeed experienced higher unemployment rates. There were also corporate obstacles to women's activity.

16. Turning to questions on parental leave, the representative said that the law providing for an extended 16 weeks of leave allowed the last 4 weeks to be used by either the father or the mother. This choice was also given for the leave for child care. The dismissal of a woman because she was pregnant was considered null by law and the employer was forced to readmit the worker or to pay her salary. A 1990 law had recognized the reversal of the burden of proof. But it had been actually applied when a female worker alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, since a 1981 sentence of the constitutional court. The representative said that there were very few part-time workers in Spain, but that they were entitled to the same social security schemes as full-time workers. She also reported programmes for the educational and professional training of men and women with disabilities, and informed the Committee that quotas had been reserved for persons with disabilities in enterprises with more than 25 employees.

17. On article 12, the representative said that the fertility rate had declined from 1.64 per cent in 1985 to 1.36 per cent in 1989. Studies showed that the use of contraceptive methods was higher among women who had declared that they had a partner than among the female population of fertile age as a whole. The representative gave examples of programmes to increase awareness about contraception such as pilot programmes for sex education of young people. On teenage pregnancy, she said that the last survey was dated from 1985 and had counted 39,586 births among women under 20 years of age. Consequences included school drop-out and medical problems linked to attempts to conceal the pregnancy as long as possible. Turning to the law on assisted techniques of reproduction, the representative said that every woman could make use of those techniques as long as she gave her consent on their free and aware utilization, was more than 18 years old and fully competent. There was an express prohibition against surrogate motherhood. The latest data on AIDS revealed that 6,000 men and 1,359 women were affected, and women representing 17 per cent of all victims. The national programme for AIDS care and prevention included specific activities for women, and IWA had published an informative bulletin on women and AIDS. The representative then answered a question on breast and gynaecological cancer. There was no national programme for the prevention of those cancers. There were, however, pilot studies to evaluate the efficiency of the different tests. Primary prevention included research on possible risks factors for breast cancer such as nutrition habits, while secondary prevention included mammography and periodic testing, and participation in a European programme on cancer. There had been various programmes developed by the autonomous communities and private health centres to prevent such cancer and all autonomous communities were to elaborate plans to reduce mortality from such cancer among the female population below 65 by 5 per cent by the year 2000. The representative finally provided the Committee with information on drug consumption and said it had emerged as a

problem in the 1970s and 1980s, and had become rather high. The number of drug users who resorted to the health system had increased between 1987 and 1990. The autonomous communities had their own plan for the prevention and cure of drug abuse. She presented the 1985 national drug prevention plan, the relative institutions that had been established, and the indicators used and some of its realizations.

18. On article 13 and social security, the representative said that public assistance was universal in Spain. The key factor for determining if a person employed at home or as a family worker would receive a pension was whether or not she had contributed to the pension scheme during a sufficient number of years. If not, she would receive financial assistance other than a pension, provided she would meet a number of additional conditions associated with retirement or invalidity payments.

19. On rural women and article 14, the representative informed the Committee that funds had been allocated in the budget for 1992 for training courses for women in rural areas. Training for work in cooperatives or in rural tourism would be provided, especially to women with children.

20. Referring to article 16 and family law, the representative said that courts had been instituted in major Spanish towns to deal with marriage, divorce and separation and other issues. Specialized personnel including social workers and psychologists provided assistance.

21. In their additional comments members praised the Spanish Government and its representative for the comprehensive, frank and well-organized reports and answers. There was a strong governmental commitment to improve the situation of women in Spain, and a significant progress had been achieved in a short time. The plan of action for equality of opportunities of women was found very ambitious and successful. The law against sexist advertising and actions against stereotyping in employment and education was considered especially successful. Members noted that the de facto changes were slow, despite big advances made in the legal field. Areas of slow progress included the sharing of domestic tasks and child care with men, participation in studies on science, as well as economic participation. New threats were AIDS and drugs. Members were however confident that progress would continue, and felt that Spain could serve as a model for other countries as regards the promotion of equality.

22. Members requested more information on the decentralization of the policy for equality to the various regions in Spain. They asked if the successful adoption of legal changes had led to a decline in the feminist movement. Members asked what were the goals for the next period of reporting and whether changes in attitudes and especially as regards sharing of domestic responsibilities between men and women had been identified as an area for further progress. Had there been already action to encourage men to participate more fully in those tasks? The representative was asked if a prosecutor who took note of a crime of rape could set up a procedure in court without the crime being notified by the victim. Members asked whether there

was a law establishing a quota system for political elections, whether there was always the political will among those in charge of the parties to put more women on the lists and, if not, what was done about it. They noted that there were no women in the constitutional court and sought information on the number of women in the rest of the judiciary system. They asked if the increase in the share of women in the diplomatic corps reflected difficulties in finding employment on the labour market in general. Members took note of research on obstacles to equal access to education and asked what had been done to adapt research to the modern society. They expressed the wish that all graphic material on non-sexist education could be made available to the Committee. Members sought more information on incentives granted to enterprises hiring women in traditionally male fields. They asked whether the law on abortion allowed doctors to refuse to perform abortions on the ground of religious or moral reasons, whether the "RU86" method was practised. They also sought information on the age of women who had an abortion, and on the health structure in which abortion was performed.

23. In answering additional questions asked by members, the representative said that regional governments and sometimes local administrations had comprehensive plans for equality of opportunity. Those included measures within their field of competence. In regions governed by the Socialist Party, there were advisers on equality of opportunity. She confirmed that there had been a decline in the feminist movement as a result of the achievement of de jure equality but said that women had increasingly participated in other associations.

24. The representative agreed that much work remained to be done to change attitudes in Spain and to reduce the double burden of women. Spain's four main goals for the future were to ensure compliance with laws on equality and to apply fully and effectively their goals; to continue pursuing policies for education and employment that would place women in decision-making positions; to change attitudes and improve the public image of women; and to promote the sharing of domestic responsibilities. She hoped the Government would adopt the second plan for the development of women encompassing those measures in 1992.

25. On rape, the representative said that a modification of the law had made it a public offence, which meant that an offender could no longer be pardoned in the course of the procedure if the victim forgave him.

26. Turning to additional questions on public life and leadership, she said that there was no law establishing a quota system. The Socialist Party had set a precedent and convinced other parties to establish quotas or include more women. On the existence of a political will to promote women inside political parties, she said that electoral lists were indeed established by the leaders of political parties, and that quotas had been established to overcome their tendency to exclude women. She recognized that the objectives on political participation had not been reached, although there had been a favourable trend as regards women's representation in Parliament which could and had to be accelerated. There were no women in the Supreme Court, she

confirmed, but they were numerous in the judiciary. Thirty-eight per cent of the judges and 31 per cent of the prosecutors were women, and it was hoped that they would pursue their careers and occupy high-level positions in the future. Turning to the increased number of women in the diplomatic corps, she said it was not an effect of recession, since Spain had satisfactory economic growth rates. Like other fields of public administration it was rather due to a system of recruitment based on merit, which was not always the case in the private sector.

27. On education, the representative said that female representation was lower in technical and engineering schools, but that half the students studying mathematics and science were women. She said that research on education in general would be pursued.

28. The representative said that there had been 500,000 peseta subsidies to employers hiring women in non-traditional fields, and another 500,000 pesetas in tax release. The provision concerned all professions where women were underrepresented, which constituted a long list. The measure had not had the positive effect expected because it was still not sufficiently well known. Similar measures had worked for encouraging the employment of young people.

29. Turning to questions on abortion, the representative said that its decriminalization had not been established by law, but that the ruling of the constitutional court recognized the rights of doctors to assert their rights to object to performing abortion. While most abortions were performed in private clinics, 98 per cent of those with high risk were performed in public clinics. The representative stated that the Committee's concern for drug traffic was fully shared by the Government and that Spain was a port of entry for drugs and she recalled that numerous measures had been taken by public authorities in that field.

30. The representative made available to the Committee the full text of the general law on advertising, and the educational material it had requested.

31. In concluding observations, the Committee expressed its appreciation of the comprehensive report and answers, which showed the Government's commitment to achieving equality and improvements in the situation of women. It noted that there were areas of progress and areas of slower changes, and said that the Government's determination was very positive. Members appealed the Spanish Government to direct part of its assistance to developing countries to programmes for women, and for areas of implementation of the Convention in particular. The representative took note of the appeal and said that she hoped that the Government would be able to give a satisfying answer, and that that had been done to a certain extent in assistance to Spanish-speaking countries.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Addendum

Venezuela

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Venezuela (CEDAW/C/13/Add.21) at its 201st meeting on 29 January 1992. The list relating to the report contains the following questions:

"General observations

"The report complies with the guidelines for the preparation of second and subsequent periodic reports as it focuses on the period between the consideration of the initial report and the date of the present report. It gives 'a summary account of the progress made by Venezuela between 1985 and 1988' with emphasis on policies and programmes developed by the governmental offices/bodies in charge of the advancement of women. These efforts should be appreciated. The frankness of the report in describing the obstacles women still face is appreciated. However, most important legal reforms (amendments to the Penal Code and the Labour Law) do not seem to have advanced from the initial stage, that is from the stage of their submission to the Congress in 1986 and 1987 respectively, in which 'they have yet to be discussed in substance by it; their approval is not expected in the near future'. The report does not give any particular explanation for such a situation or plans to overcome it. The report stresses however that, although the State of Venezuela has been developing during the last few years a series of policies aimed at guaranteeing equal opportunities for women so that they can both progress fully as human beings and participate at all levels in the country's development, there remains a series of obstacles which prevent a significant improvement in this field, the most important obstacles

being 'the whole system of values, beliefs and models which assert the inequality between men and women, assigning to the latter a role and status which degrade them as human beings'. It further explains that 'these values are deeply embedded in the bulk of the population, regardless of sex and are institutionalized in the entire social, legal and economic structures of our society. Another obstacle, which is actually related to the above, is the inadequacy of the human and economic resources assigned to the development and promotion of the programmes and projects intended for the status of women'.

"Another general remark that concerns the report is that information is missing on the results of the implementation of the governmental policies and programmes for women and their evaluation, which makes it difficult to understand what is their real impact. It seems that most of the work for change is being done by women on a voluntary basis.

"Article 2

"1. What is the Government planning to do to speed up the process of the passing by the Parliament of the amendments to the Penal Code, the Labour Law and any other amendments to the existing laws that are discriminatory to women?

"2. Is the Government receiving sufficient support for its actions in favour of the advancement of women, by political parties, trade unions and the mass media and what is it planning to do to mobilize and channel their support in favour of its policies and programmes? In particular how is it going to fight against stereotyping of roles of sexes?

"Articles 3 and 4

"1. It is appreciated that the Government of Venezuela had already in 1974 and 1979 established an important machinery in charge of the advancement of women in a Ministry of State for the Participation of Women in Development. This machinery underwent substantial changes through the years, in 1987 by the establishment of the Machinery for the Family and the General Sectoral Directorate for the Promotion of Women under the Ministry and its six advisory committees (education, labour, legislation, social communication, health and political participation).

"1.1 What were the reasons for such transformation?

"1.2 What is the size of the General Directorate for the Promotion of Women and what is its budget?

"1.3 Does the Minister for the Family have any special rights in the legislative process or in the Cabinet in order to initiate, promote or implement rights for women even if these rights are under the responsibility of other ministers?

"1.4 How does the Ministry for the Family cooperate with other government ministries in solving problems of women's rights and interests?

"1.5 Has the same form of machinery for women been institutionalized at the level of state governments or municipalities?

"2.1 To what extent have the various national policy plans as forwarded by the Advisory Committees been legislated by Parliament and to what extent have they been supported by political parties?

"2.2 If they have not been implemented so far, what are the obstacles?

"2.3 Has there been pressure by women's organizations and by the mass media in this regard?

"2.4 Have the various programmes for women been continued and evaluated?

"2.5 Are women who have been trained in the leadership programmes moving into politics, trade unions, etc.?

"Article 5

"1. The Minister of Youth, in her statement before this Committee in March 1986, said that 'of the 41 per cent of university graduates who are women, only 13 per cent take up employment. A systematic self-exclusion by women from professional activities can be observed, as well as resistance on the part of employers to taking on women in areas traditionally considered to be "male" preserve'.

"1.1 Has anything been done to change this situation (attitudes)? Describe practical measures and their results.

"2. In the initial report of Venezuela a mention was made of a study being made of stereotyping and its effects in order to promote changes in the text of schoolbooks, teaching material and the messages conveyed in the media.

"2.1 What were the results of such a study, its evaluation and implementation of eventual conclusions and recommendations?

"2.2 As the stereotyping of sex roles still plays a very important role, what are the plans to deal with it in the future?

"2.3 Has the programme for the family education been implemented, to what extent and what have its effects been?

"3. Violence (articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16)

"3.1 What is the present legal situation with regard to domestic violence and how can protection and assistance be obtained and where: in courts or other institutions?

"3.2 Are there any statistics on incidences of violence or its victims?

"3.3 Are the members of a family, and women in particular, informed about their rights?

"3.4 What is the size and scope of the programme for the protection of the family against ill-treatment and what power does it have, if any, to enforce the protection, prosecution or education of the members of the family?

"Article 6

"1. Please explain how prostitution resulted from migration?

"2. Has the proposed reform of the Penal Code been implemented to remove the difference in penalty for raping a woman of ill-repute?

"Article 7

"1. What is the percentage of women elected in the 1989 elections or in any recent local elections and what significance have such results for women's participation in the political life of the country?

"2. Have the programmes established by the government offices to that effect had any results?

"3. Which, if any, political parties have adopted a quota system suggested by women's groups?

"Article 9

"When a Venezuelan woman gets married to a foreigner, can the husband acquire the Venezuelan nationality?

"Article 10

"What measures have been taken or contemplated to change the choices of girls and young women towards their future professions in particular concerning vocational training, technical studies, etc.?

"Article 11

"1. Is the provision of equal pay for work of equal value implemented by both public and private sectors?

"2. Does the figure of 27.3 per cent women in the active population include under-employed women, street vendors and women employed as domestic help?

"3. Do employers have the right to compel women applying for jobs to take pregnancy tests?

"4. Can one choose freely one's profession?

"5. Are there any posts in government for which women cannot apply?

"6. Are cases of violation of labour laws in connection with women workers reported and prosecuted?

"7. What types of enterprises do women run as employers?

"8. Have the efforts of the Women's Directorate to provide loans to low-income women and young people to help them establish income-generating projects and small businesses been evaluated and how many women have received loans?

"9. In addition to the welcome initiative to make it an obligation for an establishment with over 30 female employees to provide rooms for breast-feeding mothers or for the stay of children during working hours of their mothers, have there been any other initiatives to improve the working conditions for workers with family responsibilities?

"Article 12

"1. Why do women need their husband's authorization for sterilization?

"2. What programmes specially directed to women are there to deal with AIDS?

"3. Are there any programmes to ensure that marginal women have access to health and education?

"Article 13

"1. What social benefits are available to women?

"2. Do surviving spouses receive such benefits as old-age pensions and sickness benefits?

"Article 16

"1. The minimum age for marriage has been increased to 14 years for women and 16 years for men. Is there any intention to increase further the minimum age for marriage?

"2. Are new figures available on single mother households (the last figures date from 1970)?

"3. As the legal system has not been reformed as yet, discriminatory legislation remains in force in connection with adultery, abortion, etc. When will these proposed reforms be enacted?

Replies of the representative of the Government of Venezuela

2. Before replying to the list of questions, the representative explained that the second periodic report had covered the progress achieved over the period 1985-1988 and had been submitted in 1989. However, at the end of 1988 presidential elections had taken place in the country and the current administration started its work in 1989. Since the representative had taken office as Minister of State for the Promotion of Women, significant changes had taken place, which she would try to outline in her presentation. She also mentioned an additional report that she had given to the secretariat during the session, which referred to the period 1989 to 1991, and an annex entitled "The woman in Venezuela" containing statistical data. Both documents should be made available to all the members of the Committee.

3. She was in agreement with the general observations made by the pre-session working group and hoped that the following answers would fill some of the information gaps in the report.

4. On article 2, she said that the National Congress had adopted a new Labour Law, which had been promulgated in 1990. Many of its provisions were favourable to the status of women. Under that law discrimination on the grounds of sex was forbidden; however, special provisions to protect maternity and the family were not considered discriminatory. Women were entitled to receive equal pay for work of equal value and paid maternity leave of six weeks before and 12 weeks after giving birth; furthermore they received an indemnization from the social security and were protected against dismissal during pregnancy and for one year after delivery. Women could also combine any unused annual leave with maternity leave. Maternity leave was also possible in case of adoption of a baby child. In a company with more than 20 employees, the employer had to provide child-care facilities with qualified personnel. Currently the Government was trying to coordinate through a special commission the availability of child-care facilities with the national network of day-care centres. Under the new law, the employer had to allow for nursing rests for lactating mothers. The new law gave equal treatment to the spouses, if they were both working outside the house and provided protection for women who were employed in domestic service. In order to protect women in the execution of all the above rights, the institution of a Prosecutor's Office or Ombudsman for Working Women was foreseen. The Penal Code had not yet been amended, but a bicameral commission for the rights of women within the Congress was trying to deal with the amendment and with a large-scale judicial reform in the near future. A draft law against family violence was on the verge of being presented to Congress through the Minister for the Promotion of Women.

5. In reply to whether the Government was receiving sufficient support for its actions in favour of the advancement of women, she said that currently an Advisory Commission for Women to the Presidency of the Republic under the Ministry of State for the Advancement of Women worked out the policies for the promotion of women. In that Commission were representatives of all political parties and other organizations. The progress achieved in the advancement of women was the result of actions of solidarity by several Governments, all political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's groups, trade unions and Venezuelan women at the grass-roots level. As regards the fight against stereotyping of gender roles, she said that the Ministry of Education was carrying out programmes to combat stereotyping in the school system and to promote equal opportunities through new schoolbooks, which did away with old forms of discrimination, the inclusion of gender problems in the curricula and dissemination of printed and audiovisual material. Research about gender roles was carried out, and negotiations were held with the media managers in order to allow the Office of the Ministry of State for the Promotion of Women regular broadcasting time for programmes for combating gender stereotyping.

6. Turning to questions raised under articles 3 and 4, she said that the changes that the machinery for the advancement of women had undergone were mainly due to conceptual and ideological criteria of the different Governments and to two phenomena, the lack of administrative continuity and a lack of political will to create a stable and permanent mechanism that would outlive the different administrations. Already in 1974, the first Advisory Committee under the President's Office had been created. Later, a Minister of State for the Incorporation of Women into Development had been nominated. In 1989, the President of the Republic had established an Advisory Commission for Women under the State Minister for the Promotion of Women. Furthermore, the current national development plan contained a chapter that was specifically dedicated to women's problems. And over the year 1991, the Advisory Commission had presented to the National Congress a draft law for setting up the National Council of Women as a stable and high-level body, which would depend directly on the Presidency of the Republic. She emphasized that Venezuela was a new democracy and that already in 1936, women could be found in the first political parties. The progress achieved up to the present time had originated from the political force that had been exercised by women since the very beginning. While the personnel and the budget of the General Directorate for the Promotion of Women were reduced, the Advisory Commission and the Ministry of State for the Promotion of Women had gained importance and political power. However, as long as the Ministry for the Family was not transformed in the way hoped for, the Ministry for Social Development would be maintained in addition to the General Directorate for the Promotion of Women. Currently, the Government was intending to keep those two bodies as coordinators for social policies regarding the promotion of women in all sectors. Over the last two years the State Minister for the Promotion of Women had created focal points in all ministries in order to coordinate all the programmes decided upon by the Advisory Commission. The Ministry of State and the Advisory Commission had their own offices and a budget, which allowed them to create projects and to introduce the women's dimension in all the

programmes on a permanent basis. It was important to decentralize the policies, to involve also the mayors and governors from all regions and to extend them to representatives of all the five political parties. Although the country had been in a different position from all other countries in the region because of its oil resources, structural adjustment policies were having a serious impact on development strategies. The Government took severe political and economic decisions, developed far-reaching social policies to reduce the impact of the adjustment on the poorest segments of the population. Some of the projects carried out by the Ministry of State and the Advisory Commission were the programme to fight against sexual discrimination and for equal opportunities in the school system, a programme for women and health, an expanded mother-and-child programme for poor pregnant and nursing mothers and their children, a programme for community-level education and a programme for day-care centres. The most important programme was one for funding small business loans to benefit women and children. Although the budget of the Ministry of State for the Promotion of Women was not sufficiently large to satisfy all those demands, a firm political will was behind all those programmes.

7. The various national policy plans and programmes had, so far, only been acted upon by the Parliament and various subcommissions, which had emerged from the former advisory commissions, were making comments to draft bills under discussion in the National Congress. She admitted that delays had indeed been experienced in the adoption of the draft law for the creation of the National Council for Women and in the amendments to be made to the Penal Code, especially as the latter was being done within the reform of the entire judiciary, but expressed the hope that the situation in that respect would improve as there was a special subcommission called "Women and the State", and as the Minister of State herself was responsible for reforming the administrative structure of the State. In Venezuela, there was great solidarity among all women's organizations, and the women's sections in all political parties, NGOs and women's groups were constantly exercising pressure regarding the adoption of certain laws or programmes. Women's programmes had been put on a higher hierarchical level and expanded to include the most vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and nursing mothers. The political evaluation of the programmes was done through a group of five ministries - and the Minister of State for the Promotion of Women was one of them - who discussed, drew up and reformulated projects. The technical evaluation was done by the National System for Coordination and Planning and the Central Statistical Office. Besides that, research work regarding the situation of women was ongoing. Leadership training had existed for a long time in the political parties and, more recently, also in some NGOs and women's groups at the grass-roots level. Experience showed that most women who exercised leadership positions in political parties had received such training. However, it had not been done systematically. Therefore, the Advisory Commission and the Ministry of State had initiated and financed a training programme in self-esteem, leadership and women and power. As a result of the convening, in March 1991, of the Second National Congress of Women, which had discussed the topic "women and power" and which had been attended by about 400,000 women, a chapter on women had been introduced for the first time in the eighth national development plan.

8. Turning to questions raised under article 5, the representative said women constituted, in 1983, 48 per cent of the persons who had completed higher education, two thirds were graduates from universities, one quarter was in the teaching profession and 13 per cent were graduates from technical universities. In 1985, women constituted the majority of university graduates. None the less, most women were found in the service sector and received low wages. As Venezuela had been a rich society, most women had been trained for careers involving competition. Almost half of the female labour force had secondary school education and 13 per cent had higher education. More than two thirds of women under 15 years of age were neither working nor seeking employment; they were mostly involved in household activities. Women with secondary education were mostly found in commerce and manufacturing, whereas women with higher education carried out jobs related to health and education services. The highest unemployment rate was found among office employees. In order to remedy the situation, the Government was trying to attract more women into the technical fields, giving higher responsibilities to women in public administration and assuring that in areas such as financial services and company management more women got involved in the public as well as in the private sector. The Government's current educational system was following the model of income societies but it was under reform. Hidden discrimination was still taking place, but the Government was trying to give women higher posts in public administration. There was definitely a strong political will behind those actions, which was documented by the fact that there were five women ministers, three top posts in public administration were held by women, one woman had a senior post in an oil enterprise and two out of five senior posts in the steel- and aluminum-producing company were occupied by women.

9. Two studies had been carried out on sexual stereotypes in school textbooks for pre-school and primary school education and in television programmes. The results showed that there was a clear discrepancy between the role models presented in the textbooks and the social reality of the country since the schoolbooks reinforced the sexual stereotypes of the former social framework and constituted one of the most serious obstacles to the complete integration of women in development. Similarly, television programmes strengthened prevailing sexual stereotypes and denied much of the progress achieved by Venezuelan women. Several ministries, in collaboration with the Advisory Commission and NGOs, were developing programmes and carrying out projects to combat the phenomenon of sex stereotyping. In addition to that, the Office of the Minister of State managed to broadcast a weekly programme on State television in order to educate the public. The programme for family education had been extremely successful.

10. Regarding domestic violence, she explained that the biggest problem was the Penal Code, which was still in force. Currently, neither the appropriate legislation nor administrative or service structures were available to deal with the problem. Recently, a draft law had been introduced, which was specifically directed against domestic violence and provided for training of officials who dealt with victims of violence. Currently, there were no clear legal criteria for the offence of domestic violence and often cultural values

prevented women from resorting to the authorities. Victims could resort to tribunals, the public prosecutor, police stations, hospitals and health units. She mentioned the Venezuelan Association for Alternative Sex Education as an NGO that was very active in that area and was trying to raise women's awareness to the problem. At present, no reliable statistics were available on the incidence of domestic violence. The most important programmes in that area were carried out by the Ministry of Education and the Family Ministry in collaboration with several other bodies. The media and NGOs were also launching campaigns.

11. Replying to questions posed under article 6, she said that the country did not have reliable statistics relating to prostitution. Police statistics about detention of prostitutes indicated that a high proportion came from migrant women from neighbouring countries. During 1992, the Government would be carrying out its first investigation on the subject.

12. Turning to article 7, she said that the percentage of women in the National Congress had been 4.8 per cent in 1984 and had risen to 9.3 per cent after the elections in 1989; in the Legislative Assemblies it had been 7.5 per cent in 1984 and had increased to 11.8 per cent in 1989. In the municipal councils, the percentage of women had dropped from 21.4 per cent in 1984 to 12.8 per cent in 1989 because at the last elections the electoral system had changed. The country now had an open ballot system, which favoured the support of male candidates by the political parties, and in addition to that only a few female candidates had presented themselves. So far, two political parties had established quotas of 20 per cent and 25 per cent for women, and a draft law was under discussion that would make it mandatory for all political parties to introduce a quota system.

13. For the remaining replies the representative referred the members of the Committee to the written text, which was distributed at the meeting.

14. Referring to article 9, it was stated in the replies that had been provided in writing that the foreign husband of a Venezuelan woman did not acquire Venezuelan nationality. An amendment to that discriminatory provision in the Constitution was currently under review.

15. On article 10, the replies provided indicated that a change in the choice of professions of young women and men was noticeable, and slowly but continuously women were moving into professions that had previously been reserved for men. Currently, the Minister of State was carrying out a pilot project in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the International Labour Organisation to stimulate more women into better paid and technically oriented professions.

16. On article 11, the text said that the principle of equal pay for work of equal value had been implemented. At present, 29.8 per cent of the population of 15 years and more were incorporated into the labour process, 80 per cent of the female population declared "inactive" could be found in household occupations and 16 per cent among students. Women job-seekers could not be

compelled to undergo a pregnancy test, and in case of violations of their rights, they could resort to the Public Prosecutor or the Ministry of Labour. No legal provision forbade the free choice of profession. Theoretically, women could apply for any government post and occupied at present about 17 per cent of high-level posts in the judiciary and in public administration. The total presence of women in public administration was in the order of 30.5 per cent. In the private sector, only 7.7 per cent of women held a managerial position. Violations of the Labour Law were generally reported through trade unions and were sanctioned under the legal provisions. In the public sector, women as employers could be found in all sectors, whereas in the private sector they were mostly in finance departments. Women were better paid in the public than in the private sector. The possibility of small-scale enterprises to apply for loans had opened new perspectives for women with low incomes. However, currently more men than women were applying for such loans, and the Family Ministry was organizing training programmes in order to involve more women in the management and administration of small-scale enterprises. It was said in the text that, thanks to various types of day-care centres and the institution of "day-care mothers", many women had the possibility to avail themselves of training and paid work outside the house.

17. On article 12, the text stated that there was no legal basis for the practice that women needed their husband's authorization for sterilization. HIV/AIDS programmes were directed to persons of both sexes. Marginalized women had also access to programmes, which provided them with food, preventive health care, medical check-ups, etc. Currently the Government was trying to extend the network for school meals to reach also the groups most in need.

18. Regarding article 13, the text stated that under the Constitution women and men had equal social rights and benefits and that special programmes were available for women. The surviving spouse, irrespective of sex, received old-age pensions and sickness benefits.

19. On article 16, it was stated that up to now there were no plans to change the marriageable ages. A slight increase in the number of single female-headed households could be noticed. About 44 per cent of them had only primary education and 23 per cent were illiterate. Half of the single female heads of households had no occupation. The current reform of the Penal Code dealt with an amendment of the discriminatory provisions relating to adultery and abortion, and the Civil Code introduced for both spouses adultery as a reason for divorce.

20. The members of the Committee were very appreciative of the detailed replies and the additional written information provided and commended the enthusiasm with which the presentation had been made. Some of them said that they knew from their own observation through visits to the country that the Government had done a lot for the advancement of women, which had not been reflected in the report. They were surprised why the second periodic report gave a totally different picture and thanked the representative for throwing light on the real situation and for having outlined the still existing

obstacles in a frank manner. Experts noted that, when the country's initial report had been considered, the oral presentation was also of much higher level than the report itself and urged the Government to present a third periodic report that would contain as much substantive information as her oral presentation and concentrate on actual progress made. The Government's political will to overcome discrimination against women, the efforts to amend the Penal Code, the importance given by the Government to decentralization, the financial support provided to women's organizations, the electoral system, the efforts to protect women from domestic violence and the attempts to influence the media in order to change discriminatory attitudes were particularly commended. However, experts emphasized that all those laudable efforts needed to be matched by an effective machinery. To combine regional initiatives with national machinery was a very positive effort. It was asked how attitudes towards women, as reflected in the presentation, were valued in the society.

21. The representative of the Government expressed her gratitude for the solidarity of the Committee members and said that women's resources in Venezuela were scarce; however the firm will to acquire them existed. The biggest problem was to make public administration officials aware of women's issues. She said that Venezuelan women were trying to influence the society through the family, the media and the laws, and that the use of the radio proved to be the most efficient media in that context. She said it would be beneficial if the United Nations could establish a machinery to facilitate the dialogue between the different aid agencies that provided financial and technical support.

22. In concluding observations, the Chairperson congratulated the representative on behalf of the Committee on her frank and clear description of the situation of women in Venezuela and on the substantive and detailed replies given. However, the subsequent periodic report should paint a fairer picture of the status of women in the country. She said that the programme to change attitudes through the mass media, school textbooks and teaching programmes deserved follow-up and evaluation, the results of which should subsequently be made known to the Committee. She was impressed by Venezuelan women's efforts to participate in political life and asked for an evaluation of those initiatives. She also pointed out the spirit of solidarity among NGOs and inquired about its reasons. The Chairperson praised the many privileges given to women by the new Labour Law and asked for information on measures regarding violence against women. She wished Venezuelan women success in their endeavours to be given the rights that they were entitled to under the Convention.

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Eleventh session
New York, 20-31 January 1992
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Addendum

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

At its .... meeting, on .. January 1992, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/1993/1) as the agenda of its twelfth session, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1993/2)

Reports of States parties to be considered at the thirteenth session

6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies (CEDAW/C/1993/3 and Add. ...)

Report of the Secretariat on analysis of article 16 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1993/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the implications for the work of the Committee of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women (CEDAW/C/1993/...)

7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

8. Consideration of the report of the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies.

Documentation

Report of the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies

9. Contributions of the Committee to international conferences.

Documentation

10. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session (CEDAW/C/1994/1).

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twelfth session.

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IV. WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

1. At its 197th meeting, on January 24, the Committee discussed certain issues and trends that had emerged from its examination of States parties' reports and which it thought deserved attention.

2. Members noted the increase in the numbers of female-headed households, a growing trend in many States parties. The family, and societies as a whole, seemed to be undergoing restructuring. There were economic causes, women were increasingly taking up economic responsibility for the household and economic independence led women to develop a sense of independence in other fields. An additional factor was seen in the increase of women's self-esteem. Members of the Committee felt that, in both developing and developed countries, women were now refusing certain kinds of marriages, for example, marriages where men abstained from sharing family life or did not assume certain economic responsibilities or denied their spouse affection and respect. Another factor noted by members was the greater freedom of the family and the fact that the law increasingly recognized changes in the structure of the family.

3. The Committee thought that research was needed on the causes and the long-term effect of the development of female-headed households, on whether there would be changes in the mentality and behaviour of the generation growing up in female-headed families and whether discrimination and stereotypes would be reduced. Research would also have to be conducted to explore the underlying hypothesis of existing fiscal rules, lower female salaries and educational systems and their possible negative impacts on

families differing from the traditional model. Members of the Committee noted that research on female-headed households could be a part of the analysis of article 16 to be carried out at its next session. That work could also serve as a basis for the Committee's recommendations for the International Year of the Family and the World Conference on Women (1995).

4. As a matter of strategy, the Committee discussed the opportunity to involve more men in action for the promotion of gender equality. Action for equality implied not only consciousness-raising among women, but also changes in male attitudes and duties. More precisely, obtaining the support of men in influential decision-making positions could ensure that required changes would be adopted in national parliaments, for example. Members of the Committee considered the possibility of having a quota of men on the Committee but agreed that such a reform should not be undertaken until other treaty bodies had quotas for women.

5. Members of the Committee recalled a decision that the Committee had taken at its tenth session, i.e. to train women for the participation in the 1995 World Conference and members should make suggestions at its eleventh session for the Committee's contribution to the World Conference. One member noted that she had sent a proposal through the secretariat to the Chairperson of the Committee.

6. The Committee asked its Chairperson, when taking part in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, to raise the question of the validity and the legal effect of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the context of reservations to all international human rights instruments. The aim should be to bring the question of reservations to the attention of the World Conference on Human Rights in order to strengthen the implementation of the Conventions.

7. Noting the many reservations made by a great number of States parties for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee agreed at its 198th meeting to recommend to the States parties to the Convention to reconsider the question of reservations with the aim that many would be withdrawn. A general recommendation concerning reservations is contained in ...

V. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP I: CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK OF THE PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUP

8. At its 201st and 203rd meetings, the Committee discussed the report of Working Group I.

9. The Committee commended the work carried out by the pre-session working group, and recommended that the pre-session working group and its present format be adopted for the next session.

10. The Committee, recalling its previous decisions to designate one member from each region to participate in the pre-session working group, nominated the members and alternates for the group for 1993 as follows:

Tatiana Nikolaeva (Russian Federation) and Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia) as alternate

Ivanka Corti (Italy) and Carlota Bustelo Garcia del Real (Spain) as alternate

Charlotte Abaka (Ghana) and Kissem Walla-Tchangai (Togo) as alternate

Shangzhen Lin (China) and Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan) as alternate

Dora Gladys Nancy Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey (Ecuador) and Norma Monica Forde (Barbados) as alternate

VI. DATES AND DURATION OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

11. The Committee, having taken note of the financial implications involved, decided to request the holding of 2 two-week sessions during 1993 or, alternatively, an extended session of three weeks' duration in order to complete consideration of the backlog of initial and second periodic reports, which up to the end of the session were 12 and 10 respectively, in addition to 7 third periodic reports. Bearing in mind that 111 States had now become parties to the Convention, a large number of reports were expected to be submitted during the year. The first session (or the extended session) would be preceded by a one-week session of the pre-session working group to prepare the issues and questions for consideration of second and third periodic reports.

12. If approval was given for an extended session of three weeks, the Committee agreed that the dates for convening its twelfth session would be from 18 January to 5 February 1993, to be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and the pre-session working group would meet from 11 to 15 January 1993.

13. If approval was given for two sessions during 1993, the Committee agreed that the dates for convening the first part of the twelfth session would be 18 to 29 January 1993, and the pre-session working group would meet from 11 to 15 January 1993. The dates for convening the second part of the session would be 30 August to 10 September, or 6 September to 17 September 1993, subject to the time-table of the secretariat and availability of conference services.

VII. REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE TWELFTH SESSION

14. The Committee decided to consider during the usual two-week session a total of eight reports: four initial reports, four second periodic reports, and one third periodic report. It decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party did not wish to present a report, the secretariat was authorized to select another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which it had been received. Accordingly, the following list of initial, second and third periodic reports was retained:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Romania	Nicaragua	Sweden
Yemen	Yemen	
(The initial and second periodic reports of Yemen to be considered together)		
Guyana	Republic of Korea	Rwanda as reserve
Iraq	Peru	
Madagascar and Kenya as reserves	Bangladesh France and United Kingdom as reserves	

15. The Committee decided that, should a three-week session be granted for its twelfth session in 1993, a total of six initial, six second periodic and two third periodic reports would be considered. They comprised the reports listed above with the addition of the following:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Kenya	France	Rwanda
Madagascar	United Kingdom	Norway as reserve
Zambia and Guatemala as reserves	Senegal as reserve	

16. The Committee decided that, should 2 two-week sessions be granted for its twelfth session in 1993, a total of four initial, four second periodic and one third periodic reports would be considered at each of the two sessions. Reports to be considered at the second session were as follows:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Kenya Madagascar Zambia Guatemala Chile and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as reserves	First received by the secretariat with one other as reserve	Norway Hungary as reserve

VIII. CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS 1993

17. The Committee adopted the following suggestion concerning the World Conference on Human Rights:

Suggestion 3

World Conference on Human Rights 1993

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requests that the question of the equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women be fully reflected in the agenda of the Conference and, in particular, the close relationship between the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those guaranteed under the other international human rights instruments.

Such a theme would emphasize that women's equality is a significant human rights issue and, to this end, attention should be given to the extent to which this issue has been addressed effectively by the implementation methods and mechanisms under human rights covenants and conventions.

The Committee requests that the Secretary-General ensures that, as far as possible, documentation prepared for the World Conference on Human Rights according to General Assembly resolution 46/116, paragraph 5 (a), include a gender perspective.

The Committee suggests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations take steps to initiate the translation of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Centre for Human Rights into all official United Nations languages as soon as possible and distribute it to all States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Committee suggests that the Secretary-General prepare a publication on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the work of the Committee in like manner as the Fact Sheets for other human rights instruments and bodies.

UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN
Eleventh session
New York, 20-31 January 1992
Item 7 of the agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF STATES PARTIES

General recommendations

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women brings to the attention of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the following general recommendations:

General recommendation No. 19 (eleventh session, 1992)

Violence against women

Background:

1. Gender based violence is a form of discrimination which seriously inhibits womens' ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

2. At its eighth session 1989, CEDAW recommended that States should include in their reports information about violence and about measures introduced to deal with it (General Recommendation 12, eighth session).

3. At the tenth session in 1991, it was decided to allocate part of the eleventh session to a discussion and study on article 6 and other articles relating to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women. This subject was chosen in anticipation of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

4. The Committee has concluded that the reports of States parties do not all adequately reflect the close connection between discrimination against women, gender based violence, and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The full implementation of the Convention requires States to take positive measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

I. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A FORM OF DISCRIMINATION

5. The Committee recommends to States parties that in reviewing their laws and policies, and in reporting under the Convention, they should have regard to the following comments of the Committee concerning gender based violence.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gender based violence is discrimination

6. The Convention in article 1 defines discrimination against women as meaning:

> "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." (article 1)

7. This definition of discrimination includes gender based violence - that is violence which is directed against a woman because she is a woman or which affects women disproportionately. It includes acts which inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence.

Gender based violence violates human rights

8. Gender based violence which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under specific human rights conventions is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. These rights and freedoms include, inter alia

- the right to life,

- the right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

- the right to the equal protection of humanitarian norms in time of international or internal armed conflict,

- the right to liberty and security of person,

- the right to the equal protection of the law,

- the right to equality in the family,

- the right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health, and

- the right to just and favourable conditions of work.

The Convention covers public and private acts

9. The Convention applies to violence perpetrated by public authorities. Such acts of violence may also breach that State's obligations under general international human rights law, and under other conventions, in addition to being a breach of this Convention.

10. It should be emphasized, however, that discrimination under the Convention is not restricted to actions by or on behalf of Governments (see articles 2.e, 2.f and 5). For example, under article 2.e the Convention calls on States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise. Under general international law and specific human rights covenants, States may also be responsible for private acts if they fail to act with due diligence to prevent violations of rights, or to investigate and punish acts of violence, and to provide compensation.

11. States parties should take appropriate and effective measures to overcome all forms of gender based violence, whether by public or private act.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION

Articles 2 and 3

12. Under articles 2 and 3 States are to take all appropriate measures to overcome discrimination in all fields. The kind of measures to be taken are not restricted to the matters covered by specific articles of the Convention. Articles 2 and 3 establish a comprehensive obligation to eliminate discrimination in all its forms in addition to the specific obligations under articles 5-16.

13. States should ensure that laws against family violence and abuse, rape, sexual assault and other gender based violence give adequate protection to all women, respect their integrity and dignity. Appropriate protective and support services should be provided for victims. Gender sensitive training of judicial and law enforcement officers and other public officials is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention.

14. States should encourage the compilation of statistics and research about the extent, causes and effects of violence, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and deal with violence.

Traditional attitudes, customs and practices (Articles 2.f, 5 and 10.c)

15. Traditional attitudes under which women are regarded as subordinate or as having stereotyped roles perpetuate widespread practices involving violence or coercion, such as family violence and abuse, forced marriage, dowry deaths, acid attacks, female circumcision. Such prejudices and practices may justify gender based violence as a form of protection or control of women. The effect of such violence to the physical and mental integrity of women deprives them of the equal enjoyment, exercise and knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms. While this comment addresses mainly actual or threatened violence the underlying (structural) consequences of these forms of gender based violence help to maintain women in subordinate roles, contribute to their low level of political participation, and to their lower level of education, skills and work opportunities. The full implementation of the Convention requires that effective measures be taken to overcome these attitudes and practices. States should introduce education and public information programmes to help eliminate prejudices which hinder women's equality (Recommendation No.3, 1987).

16. These attitudes also contribute to the propagation of pornography and the depiction and other commercial exploitation of women as sexual objects, rather than as individuals. This in turn contributes to gender based violence. Effective measures should be taken to ensure that the media respects and promotes respect for women.

17. States reports should identify the nature and extent of attitudes, custom and practices which perpetuate violence against women, and on the kind of violence which results. They should report the measures which they have undertaken to overcome violence and the effect of these measures.

Exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women (Article 6)

18. Article 6 requires States parties to take measures "to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women."

19. Poverty and unemployment increase the opportunities for trafficking in women. In addition to established forms of trafficking there are new forms of sexual exploitation, such as sex tourism, the recruiting of domestic labour from developing countries to work in the developed world, and organized marriages between women from developing countries and foreign nationals. These practices are incompatible with the equal enjoyment of rights by women and with respect for their rights and dignity. They put women at special risk of violence and abuse. Specific preventive and punitive measures are necessary to overcome trafficking and sexual exploitation.

20. Poverty and unemployment also forces many women, including young girls, into prostitution. Prostitutes are especially vulnerable to violence, because their status, which may be unlawful, tends to marginalize them. They need the equal protection of laws against rape and other forms of violence.

21. Wars, armed conflicts, occupation of territories often lead to increased prostitution, trafficking in women and sexual assault of women which require specific protective and punitive measures.

22. State reports should describe the extent of these problems and the measures, including penal provisions, preventive and rehabilitation measures, which have been taken to protect women engaged in prostitution or subject to trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation. The effectiveness of these measures should also be described.

Violence and equality in employment (Article 11)

22. Equality in employment can be seriously impaired when women are subjected to gender specific violence, such as sexual harassment in the workplace.

23. Sexual harassment includes such unwelcome sexually determined behaviour as physical contacts and advances, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography and sexual demands, whether by words or actions. Such conduct can be humiliating and may constitute a health and safety problem; it is discriminatory when the woman has reasonable grounds to believe that her objection would disadvantage her in connection with her employment, including recruiting or promotion, or when it creates a hostile working environment. Effective complaints procedures and remedies, including compensation, should be provided.

24. States should include in their reports information about sexual harassment, and on measures to protect women from sexual harassment and other forms of violence of coercion in the workplace.

Violence and health (Article 12)

25. Article 12 requires States to take measures to ensure equal access to health care. Violence against women puts their health and lives at risk. States should establish or support services for victims of family violence, rape, sexual assault and other forms of gender based violence, including refuges, specially trained health workers, rehabilitation and counselling.

26. In some States there are traditional practices perpetuated by culture and tradition which are harmful to the health of women and children. These practices include dietary restrictions for pregnant women, preference for male children and female circumcision or genital mutilation. States should take measures to overcome such practices and should take account of the Committee's recommendations on female circumcision (Recommendation No. 14) in reporting on health issues.

27. Compulsory sterilization or abortion adversely affects women's physical and mental health, and infringe the rights of "women to choose the number and spacing of their children" (16.1 (e)). States should ensure that measures are taken to prevent coercion in regard to fertility and reproduction, and to ensure that women are not forced to seek unsafe medical procedures such as illegal abortion because of lack of appropriate services in regard to fertility control.

28. State reports should report on the extent of these problems and should indicate the measures which have been taken and their effect.

Rural women (Article 14)

29. Rural women are at risk of gender based violence because of the persistence of traditional attitudes regarding the subordinate role of women which persist in many rural communities. States should ensure that services for victims of violence are accessible to rural women and that where necessary special services are provided to isolated communities. Girls from rural communities are at special risk of violence and sexual exploitation when they leave the rural community to seek employment in towns. Measures to protect them from violence should include training and employment opportunities and the monitoring of the employment conditions of domestic workers.

30. States should report on the risks to rural women, the extent and nature of violence and abuse to which they are subject, their need for and access to support and other services and on the effectiveness of measures to overcome violence.

Family violence (Article 16)

31. Family violence is one of the most insidious forms of violence against women. It is prevalent in all societies. Within family relationships women of all ages are subjected to violence of all kinds, including battering, rape, other forms of sexual assault, mental and other forms of violence described under article 5 which are perpetuated by traditional attitudes. Lack of economic independence forces many women to stay in violent relationships. The abrogation of their family responsibilities by men, in situations of financial difficulties, can be a form of violence and coercion. These forms of violence put women's health at risk and impair their ability to participate in family life and public life on a basis of equality. Measures which are necessary to overcome family violence include:

- criminal penalties where necessary and civil remedies in case of domestic violence,

- legislation to remove the defence of honour in regard to the assault or murder of a female family member,

- services to ensure the safety and security of victims of family violence, including refuges, counselling and rehabilitation programmes,

- rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence,

- support services for families where incest or sexual abuse has occurred.

32. States should report on the extent of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and on the preventive, punitive and remedial measures which have been taken.

II. MEASURES NECESSARY TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE

In light of these comments, the Committee recommends:

1. That States take all legal and other measures which are necessary to provide effective protection of women against gender based violence, including, inter alia:

(a) effective legal measures, including penal sanctions, civil remedies and compensatory provisions to protect women against all kinds of violence, including inter alia violence and abuse in the family, sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace;

(b) preventive measures, including public information and education programmes to change attitudes concerning the roles and status of men and women;

(c) protective measures, including refuges, counselling, rehabilitation and support services for women who are the victims of violence or who are at risk of violence.

2. That States report on all forms of gender based violence, and that such reports include all available data about the incidence of each form of violence, and about the effects of such violence on the women who are victims.

3. That States reports include information about the legal, preventive and protective measures which have been taken to overcome violence against women, and on the effectiveness of such measures.

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* For the discussion, see chap. .....

General recommendation No. 20 (eleventh session, 1992)

Reservations

Decision of CEDAW on reservations to the Convention

1. The Committee asks its chairperson, when taking part in the Prep. Com for the World Conference on Human Rights, to raise on the agenda of the World Conference the global issue of reservations to Human Rights Conventions. The Women's Convention has the highest number of reservations of all the International Human Rights Treaties. Most of the reservations are worded so generally that it is difficult to determine what in fact is being reserved and what impact the reservations would have on the obligations to eliminate discrimination against women assumed by reserving countries.

2. The aim should be to bring the question of reservations to the attention of the World Conference in order to strengthen the implementation of these Conventions.

General recommendation concerning reservations

CEDAW recalling the decision of the Fourth Meeting of States parties on reservations to the Convention under Article 28.2, which was welcomed by General Recommendation no. 4 of CEDAW, invites States parties:

in connection with the preparation of the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 to raise the question of the validity and the legal effect of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the context of reservations to other Human Rights Treaties. States parties concerned should consider such reservations with a view to strengthening the implementation of all Human Rights Treaties.

They also might wish to consider introducing a procedure on reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women comparable with those of other Human Rights Treaties.

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* For the discussion, see chap. .....

V. WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 21 OF THE CONVENTION

1. At its 202nd meeting on 29 January 1992, the Committee considered item 3 of its agenda on the basis of the report of working group II. The coordinator of Working Group II briefly outlined the content of the document CEDAW/C/WG II/1992/WP.12 containing the report of the group. The topics that were before the Working Group included pending recommendations which had been deferred to the eleventh session of the Committee, 1/ Article 6 and other articles related to violence (CEDAW/C/WGII/1992/WP.3 and CEDAW/C/1992/4), a response to the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women, 2/ (EGM/VAW/1991/1 and CEDAW/C/1992/8/Corr.1), newly tabled recommendations on participation of women in politics and on women's rights to use their own name (CEDAW/C/WGII/1992/WP.5), and on gender dimension of development projects (CEDAW/C/WG II/1992/WP.10).

2. As a matter of priority, the working group had agreed to put forward for plenary discussion by all members of the Committee a general recommendation on violence against women (CEDAW/C/WG II/1992/WP.6/Rev.2), and further a decision and a general recommendation concerning reservations made by States parties upon ratification of the Convention (CEDAW/C/WGII/1992/WP.9).

3. The coordinator reported that, in order to prepare the draft general recommendation on violence against women including general comments, the working group had done a step-by-step analysis of the articles of the Convention in view of their relevance to issues relating to violence against women and to legal and other measures to prohibit and prevent it and to compensate for it. Comments by a representative of the ILO were included.

4. The Committee adopted the draft general recommendation 19 on violence against women as amended and the draft decision and general recommendation 20 on reservations to the Convention.

5. Based on the suggestions made by Working group II, the Committee decided that a general recommendation on violence against women including general comments could be regarded as <u>one</u> response to the Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women. Concerning the Expert Group's suggestion of Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee held the view that neither a substantive nor a procedural Optional Protocol to the Convention was desirable for the following reasons:

1/ (Mentioned in paragraphs 399, 403, 404 of the report of the tenth session).

2/ Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women held in Vienna from 11 to 15 November 1991 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/18.

- A substantive Optional Protocol regarding merely violence against women would undermine the importance of other topics of the Convention which would then need to be addressed in further additional Protocols. Most members agreed that general comments made by the Committee on the articles of the Convention would assist States parties in implementing the Convention by clarifying its scope;

- A procedural Optional Protocol, again, should not concentrate on merely one aspect of the Convention, but should cover all aspects of the Convention. Such a protocol could be considered at a future time as an instrument strengthening the Convention;

- The reasons against a substantive or a procedural Optional Protocol on violence against women, as mentioned above, spoke also against a combined substantive and procedural Optional Protocol on violence against women;

- The Expert Group's suggestion concerning the strengthening of the existing procedures for communications in the Commission on the Status of Women was welcomed by some members of the Committee.

6. It was decided that all pending and newly tabled recommendations as well as CEDAW/C/WGII/1992/WP.3 on Article 6 would be included as part of general comments on individual articles of the Convention to be prepared by members of the Committee with the assistance of the Secretariat. The drafts of these general comments should be submitted for discussion at CEDAW's twelfth session. The Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare and coordinate additional material on articles of the Convention, including material from other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and submit it to members of the Committee early enough to be considered by them in drafting general comments on individual articles.

7. The following members of the Committee volunteered to prepare draft general comments for the Committee's twelfth session, i.e.:

Ms. Bernard and Ms. Ukeje	on article 2
Ms. Ukeje and Ms. Schöpp-Schilling	on article 4
Ms. Laiou-Antoniou	on article 5
Ms. Bustelo and Ms. Aouij	on article 6
Ms. de Ramsey and Ms. Corti	on article 7
Ms. Aouij and Ms. Ukeje	on article 9
Ms. Nikolaeva	on article 11
Ms. Abaka and Ms. Walla-Tchangai	on article 12
Ms. Bernard and Ms. Forde	on article 15
Ms. Alfonsin, Ms. Quintos-Deles, Ms. Forde, Ms. Bernard	on article 16

9. It was agreed that priority should be given to Articles relevant to the family in preparation for the International Year of the Family 1994 and that preferably, two or more members should cooperate in the work, on each Article.

10. It was pointed out that the Committee could - at a future time - compare the reservations States parties have made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and to other human rights conventions.